Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

OBSTRUCTIONS TO IRISH IMMIGRATION TO PENNSYLVANIA, 1736.

[The following letter is of interest as showing some of the obstructions put in the way of immigration from Ireland to Pennsylvania early in the last century. The original, in the "Penn Manuscripts" of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, is addressed: "To | Sr | Penn, Knight | Proprietor of Pensilvania | now In London;" and is endorsed, "Letter from an Irish Captn about Ships being stop'd going to Pensilvs."]

"DUBLIN, May 3, 1736.

"HOND SR.

"As you are the proprietor of pensilvania & being informed of your being in London I would beg Liberty to inform your Worship of some of the Deficulty wh poor people that are flying from the oppresion of Landlords & tyeths (as they term it) to severall parts of America Viz: When Last our Irish parlement was sitting there was a Bill brought in respecting the Transportation to America which made it next to a prohibition said Bill greatly allarmed the people perticularly in the north of Ireland and least a second should suckceed greater numrs than usuall made ready but when said Landlords found it so the fell on with other means by destresing the Owners & Masters of the Ships there being now ten in the harbour of Belfast the methoud they fell in with first was that when anny of said Ships Advertised that they were Bound for such a Port & when they would be in redeness to seal & thire willingness to agree with the passengers for which & no other Reasons they Esued out thire Warrants and had severall of said Owners & masters apprehended & likewise the printers of said Advertisements & Bound in bonds of a thousand pounds to apear att Carrickfergus assizes or be thrown into a Lowthsome Geoal and for no other reson than Encuraging his Majesty's subjects as they were pleased to cale thire Indectment from on plantation to another But even affter all this when the assizes came on they were affread of thire Enlargement and beged verry earnessly of ye Judges to heave them continued upon thire Recognizes—the consequence of which may easey be seen most of said Ships being strangers would heave effectually Ruined them But the

Judge was pleased to Discharge them nay one of the Justices gott up in Court & swore By G—d if anny came to Lisburn the town in w^h^ he lived to puplise an advertizement he would Whipe him throw the Town To w^h^ the Judge verry mildly replied To concider if they Deserved it & if he whiped anny person to do it according to Law Money has beeing offerd by some of them to Swere against some of said Ships & Rewards actualy given But yett a more Hellish contrivances has been thought of & is put in practice by the Coll^r^ Geo. Macartney of Belfast he will not now when said ships and passingers was just redy to seal so much as allow the poor people to carry thire old Bed Cloaths with them allthow ever so old under pretence of An Act of the British parlement made in the tenth & Eleventh Years of the Rean of King William & Repealed in ye year 1732 and said Ships being obliged to lay this affair before the Com^rs^ of Dublin has appointed one Mr John Mean who has likewise stated the whole affair before one Francis Wilks Esq in London whom I refair said Mr Mean & I & likewise most of the mer^ts^ in this Town are affraid of success even with the Com^rs^ will be obliged to lay it before the Lord Leu^t^ of this Kingdom & if that should feal than nothing less than his Majesty's Gratious Interpotion cane effect (it affords us some dawening hopes of our Greveances being removed) His Majestys encurege^t^ & liberaty but a loss what does that in the meantime when no less than ten Ships has been these 18 or 20 days and no aperance of getting away and advanst charge the seson passing and which is yett much more moveing 17 or 18 hun^d^ souls maney of which are in most deplorable circumstances not being so much as able to pay thire passage and all of them destitute of howses to put thire heads into or of means wherewith to suport themselves maney of which has depended on their Friends in America from home they yearly have Acct^s^ and one [torn] they only depend for thire information But our Landlords here affrims that those Acct^s^ are all of them Forgerys & Lyes the Contrivances of the proprietors Trustees & Masters of the American Ships.

"If you think fitt to make anny furder use of these Acct^s^ I do promise to make all of them appear matter of fact I am affraid I heave been tow Tedius thefore beg leave subcri^e^ my self your Hon^rs^ Most Hum^bl^ & Most ob^t^ Ser

"JOHN STEWART.

"*post*—if your Hon^{r} will please to Ans^{r} derect to the care of Mr. Hugh White mer^{t} in Dublin.

"N. B. I did not think proper in the body of the Letter to acquaint Your Hon^{r} y^{t} of those ten Ships there is eight bound for Dalour [Delaware?] & verry counciderable with them for to my knowledge there will be in a vessall that I bought last year in Margos Hucke [Marcus Hook] near Chister in or about seven hun^{d} pounds Ster^{l} mostly in Speece if this does not prevent them from getting over allogether. But with respect to ye warr^{s} I heave mentioned its matter of Fact.

"I am &c.

"JOHN STEWART."